



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

JUN 30 2015

Dear Chairman Gowdy:

The Department of State is committed to getting the Select Committee on Benghazi information as expeditiously as possible and we continue to make progress by producing documents for multiple requests simultaneously.

With this letter we are providing the Benghazi Committee with an additional production of documents requested by the Committee. In our letter last week, we confirmed our new understanding that, notwithstanding public statements and private correspondence indicating that the Benghazi Committee had “narrowed” its March Libya subpoena to limited date ranges for three individuals, the Committee instead has merely prioritized those individuals and dates as “Phase 1” of its subpoena.¹ We previously produced documents responsive to this “Phase 1” on May 22, 2015. Today, we are producing additional documents from each of the three individuals from Phase 1 and all of the time periods within “Phase 1.” Like our May production, these materials include communications with all ten people listed in the March Libya subpoena.

In March, the Benghazi Committee issued a subpoena for two years’ of documents from ten senior Department officials related to “Libya.” The Benghazi Committee has had (for many months) hundreds of Benghazi-related documents involving all ten of those people. Here are Bates-numbers for just a small sample of Benghazi-related materials – found within previous State Department productions – involving the ten people listed in the March Libya subpoena:

C05395490; C05395405; C05411848; C05394621; C05395412;
C05395423; C05415756; C05580024; C05562204; C05562145;
C05580139; C05622858; C05578329; C05578717; C05562161;
C05579989; STATE-SCB0045011; STATE-SCB0045050; STATE-
SCB0045123; STATE-SCB0045273; STATE-SCB0045334; STATE-

¹ “Phase 1” as defined by your staff covers emails to or from Cheryl Mills or Jacob Sullivan within the date ranges of March 1 – April 15, 2011, August 16 – 31, 2011, December 15 – 31, 2011, and September 10 – October 31, 2012; and emails to or from Ambassador Susan Rice within the date ranges of March 1 – April 15, 2011, November 10 – 25, 2011, and September 10 – 20, 2012.

SCB0050126; STATE-SCB0047865; STATE-SCB0050210; STATE-SCB0046960; STATE-SCB0046779.²

In addition, the Committee has the documents produced last month in response to your recently expanded scope and its broad timeframe, in Bates range STATE-SCB0050321 – STATE-SCB0051520.³

The Department remains mindful of the Benghazi Committee's stated focus on issues directly related to the Benghazi attacks.⁴ We are also adhering to the Benghazi Committee's request to prioritize and expedite production of documents that address those issues. To that end, and consistent with previous productions, the documents provided today relate to the security of, and attacks on, the State Department facility in Benghazi; the United States' diplomatic presence in Libya, including Benghazi, and the U.S. weapons programs related to Libya. The documents produced today bear the Bates stamps STATE-SCB0051627 - STATE-SCB0055263.

The Department already has produced thousands of pages of material relating to the people listed in your March subpoena, as described above. Many of the documents in our production today are duplicates of or duplicative of materials already in the Benghazi Committee's possession. However, given the breadth of the Benghazi Committee's subpoena — which requests documents related to time periods and subject matters beyond anything requested by any previous Benghazi-related Congressional inquiry — some of these documents have not previously been produced. Nevertheless, to the extent the materials produced relate to your inquiry, we do not believe they change the fundamental facts of the attacks on Benghazi, as originally found by the Accountability Review Board and subsequently confirmed by numerous Congressional committees.

As with our previous productions, these documents are subject to our agreement regarding the appropriate handling and redaction of sensitive information. Under

² See State Department productions of August 2014, November 2014, December 2014, February 2015, April 2015.

³ That production focused on materials from Cheryl Mills, one of the individuals listed in your subpoena, but included communications with each of the other nine people included in your March subpoena.

⁴ Topics such as: "(1) why did the U.S. have a presence in Benghazi, Libya despite the security risks; (2) what actions did relevant agencies take during the attacks to protect U.S. personnel and facilities; and (3) what was the Administration's response and explanation for the attacks and how did its position evolve?" *Interim Progress Update*, The Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attacks in Benghazi, May 8, 2014, page 1.

the terms of this agreement, the documents are being provided without the majority of Department redactions that would normally be applied to protect national security, law enforcement, and diplomatic efforts of the United States, as well as the safety and privacy of the individuals named therein. In return, the Benghazi Committee has agreed that, in the event that it considers it integral to the satisfaction of the Benghazi Committee's mandate to release any of these documents publicly, it will first give the State Department a reasonable opportunity of at least five days to review the documents proposed to be released and to discuss with the Benghazi Committee any sensitive information the Department believes should be redacted prior to the public release. The Benghazi Committee has agreed to consider such requests in good faith prior to making any such release. In addition, a small number of documents implicate important Executive Branch institutional interests and are therefore not included in this production.

The Department is committed to working with the Benghazi Committee to find ways to accommodate its information needs. As you know, the Department has devoted significant resources to this goal since the Committee's inception. To date, we have provided the Benghazi Committee with over 50,000 pages of documents; twenty-three transcribed witness interviews; seven staff or Member briefings; and witnesses at each of the Benghazi Committee's three public hearings. And we have achieved many of these milestones simultaneously. Moreover, the Benghazi Committee has the benefit of numerous briefings, hearings, and interviews provided by the Department that were conducted by other Committees. We will continue to devote resources to Phase 1 of the Committee's March subpoena. As always, the more the Benghazi Committee allows the Department to focus its efforts exclusively on document production, the faster the Department will be able to provide documents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julia Frifield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Julia" being more prominent than the last name "Frifield".

Julia Frifield
Assistant Secretary
Legislative Affairs

Enclosures:

As stated.

cc: The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings